

REMARKS

Claims 17, 20 and 22-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-16, 18, 19 and 21 have been canceled. Claims 22-27 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating on page 6 of the last Office Action that claims 17 and 20 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form and is now clearly allowable. Claim 20 was in independent form and still is in independent form. The minor amendments made to claim 20 improve the readability of claim 20. As currently amended, claim 20 is still clearly allowable.

New Matter Issues

Any rejection based on new matter under 35 U.S.C. 132 is traversed. The application does not now and never did contain new matter.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 112

The rejection of claim 21 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 is traversed but has been rendered moot, since claim 21 has been cancelled.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The rejection of claims 11-13 and 19 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Rucker in view of U.S. Patent 5,792,760 (Hipskind) as stated in paragraph 1) on page 4 of the Office Action is traversed, but has been rendered moot since none of the claims that are rejected are still pending.

The rejection of claims 11, 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of U.S. Patent 5,629,281 (Butler) in paragraph 2) on page 5 of the last Office Action is traversed, but has been rendered moot, since all of the claims there rejected have been cancelled.

The rejection of claim 12 as obvious over Butler in view of Hipskind in paragraph 3) on page 5 of the last Office Action is traversed, but has been rendered moot, since claim 12 has been canceled.

Conclusions

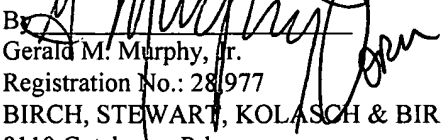
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

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Respectfully submitted,


By _____
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No.: 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant